

Operative G.T.Purdy

Oct. 27th, 1926

Re: Anna Hoag, 523 Prospect St., East Orange, who heard shots the night of Sept. 14, 1922.

Operative interviewed Miss Hoag at her home at 523 Prospect St., East Orange, who explained that within a few days she is moving to 448 Springdale Ave. East Orange, N.J.

She stated that on the night of Sept. 14th, 1922 she was sitting on the porch of her house, which is four or five hundred feet from the Crab apple tree. This was her statement before the grand jury.

Operative asked her where she was when she heard the shots and she replied "in the backyard with her husband who was just getting through with putting the chickens up for the night. First she heard three shots and then she heard one shot. These shots were very sharp and she heard no voices or screams. It was very dark and no moon was out. She judged the time at about 10 P.M. when she went to bed and that it was about ten or fifteen minutes before that when she heard the shots. She further stated that shots around there was unusual except in the hunting season which had not started yet. Her husband also heard the shots, but he is a very nervous man and could not testify.

Operative asked her if she saw Henry Stevens on Friday, Sept. 15th, 1922 and she said she did not see him that day. She further stated that her brother, John Lathrop went over to the Lane Saturday morning about 10 A.M. and saw the bodies. She does not think that the State should use him as a witness as he is very hard on hearing and "a little bit off and might say something that he should not when being questioned." She is worried about her brother and hopes they will not have to use him.

Mrs. Hoag further states that she did not see anyone in De Russey's Lane that night as it was very dark. She saw several shooting stars. She states that it is not unusual to hear screams along Eastern Ave. and in De Russey's Lane at night, as she often heard girls screaming in the Lane and on several occasions cars went along the road at a very fast rate of speed with girls screaming in them.

Operative asked her if she saw a light in the Phillips Farm house that night and she replied that she did not, and as a matter of fact could only see a corner of the farm house. She states that the Phillips people left the house about a year and a half before the murders and went to live with their children.

Mrs. Hoag states that after the murders she and another young couple went to live in the old farm house. They had cheap rent and a wonderful time, but her relations told her the house was haunted and she only laughed at them. She does not believe the murders were committed in the farm house.

Respectfully submitted: G.T.P.